

Tom Heron of Sax. A Story of the Evangelical Revival of the Eighteenth Century. By EVELYN EVERETT - GREEN. Illustrated. London: The Religious Tract Society. Toronto: William Briggs. Price, \$1.75.

This story achieved great popularity in running as a serial through the *Sunday at Home* for 1892. It is here brought out in all the glory of green cloth, full gilt, and handsomely printed and illustrated. It is of special interest to Methodist readers as giving a vivid picture of the days of Wesley. It illustrates the power of divine grace to change a drinking, roistering village blacksmith to a saint, an apostle and a martyr. John Wesley, Geo. Whitefield, John Nelson and other makers of Methodism appear in these pages. It exhibits a more pleasing, and we think probably a truer view of the relations between the Methodists and the Church people, with the exception of a few persecuting bigots, than we sometimes receive. It is an admirable book for our Sunday-schools and families.

A Japanese Interior. By ALICE MABEL BACON. Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 267. Price, \$1.25.

These letters describe the experience of a bright, intelligent lady engaged as a teacher in a school for higher class Japanese girls under the management of the Imperial Household Department. The writer had admirable facilities for studying the inner life of the Japanese in palace and court circles. Her pictures are of photographic fidelity, and give a very pleasing impression of the amiable Japanese character. She pays a high tribute to the intelligence of the congregation listening to a sermon in the Mission in whose Sunday-school she was teacher. They had more the look of students in a lecture room than of a congregation. Almost all the men and women had Bibles, which they consulted for every reference, and many had paper on which they took notes. They

were evidently in search of instruction rather than oratory or æsthetic gratification of any kind.

The young men in her Bible-class were of similar character, and some of the questions propounded by them showed not only deep interest but a deep insight into Christian religion. The author devoted much time in answering in writing the puzzling questions made by her Bible-class. One boy asked twenty-five questions, some of them requiring long and full answers. We would be glad if all our Canadian Bible students exhibited as deep and intelligent an interest as did these Japanese recently emerged from heathendom.

Japan in History, Folk-lore, and Art.

By WILLIAM ELIOTT GRIFFIS, author of "Mikado's Empire." Boston and New York: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. Toronto: William Briggs. Pp. 230.

Few persons have been so intimately identified with the progress of Japan as Dr. Griffis. He was one of the first Americans to go to that country to organize schools and teach science. He thoroughly studied the country, its institutions and literature, and has written some of the best books on Japan. The present volume gives an account of the Japanese mythology, folk-lore, and traditions. One of the most interesting parts is that on the New Japan, showing the marvellous progress which has been made in the last twenty years.

The Master Sower. By Rev. F. S. DAVIS, A.M. Cincinnati: Cranston & Curts. Pp. 196. Price 75c.

Adopting the beautiful parable of our Lord, of the Sower of the Seed, the author of this book exemplifies in a clear, strong, cogent manner, the lessons of that holy teaching. He discusses the seed sown, the thin soil, temptation, trials, care, riches, sinful pleasures, unripe fruit, the Christian truth accepted with honest conviction, honest repentance, and honest conversion, and the ripe fruit of the spirit, even life everlasting. This is a very suggestive and instructive volume.